DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 290 970 CG 020 502

AUTHOR Sailor, Perry
TITLE AISD'S Missing Students: 1985-86 Dropout Report: Executive Summary.
INSTITUTION Austin Independent School District, Tex. Office of Research and Evaluation.
REPORT NO AISD-ORE-85-70
PUB DATE 86
NOTE 12p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Age Differences; Black Students; Cohort Analysis; Comparative Analysis; *Dropout Rate; *Dropout Research; High Schools; Hispanic Americans; Junior High Schools; Longitudinal Studies; *Racial Differences; Research Methodology; Sex Differences; Whites
IDENTIFIERS Austin Independent School District TX

ABSTRACT

The Office of Research and Evaluation of the Austin Independent School District (AISD) in Austin, Texas has reported yearly high school dropout counts since the 1983-1984 school year. This report presents data from three cohorts of high school students--those enrolled in 1983-1984, 1984-1985, and 1985-1986. The method used to assign dropout status codes is explained and tables and text are provided which compare annual dropout rates for the three cohorts and which illustrate findings graphically. Dropouts are classified by sex, ethnic group, and grade level. In addition to the annual dropout rates, longitudinal dropout rates and junior high school dropout rates are provided. Non-graduating seniors are discussed as an extremely high-risk group. Major findings of the research are listed: (1) the annual high school dropout rate for 1985-1986 was 10.7%, down 0.3 percentage points from the 1984-1985 rate; (2) the Black dropout rate was 9.8%, down from 10.6%, the Hispanic dropout rate was 15.3%, down from 16%, and the Anglo/Other dropout rate was 9.0%, down from 9.1%; (3) the annual dropout rate declined at grades 10 and 11, but increased at grades 9 and 12; (4) of 1983-1984 ninth graders, 27.4% had dropped out of school by July, 1986; (5) although the grade 12 dropout rate was the lowest of any grade, the dropout rate among seniors who did not graduate in 1984-1985 was 73.7%; and (6) the annual 1985-1986 junior high school dropout rate was 5.1%, an increase of 1.3 percentage points from the 1984-1985 rate. (NB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

AISD's Missing Students:

1985-86 Dropout Report

ED290970

CG 020502

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

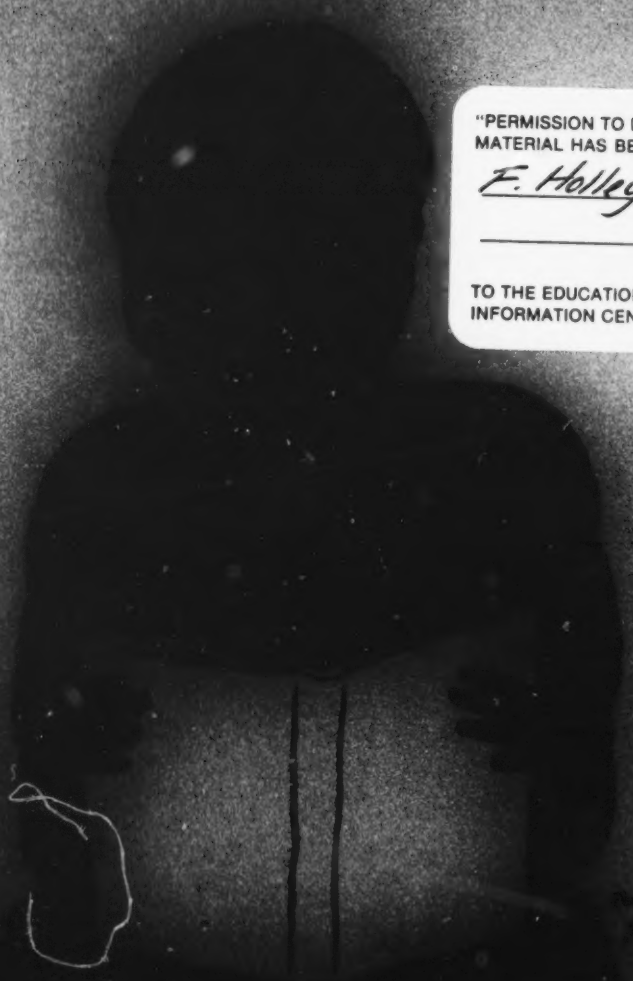
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

F. Holley

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

AISD'S MISSING STUDENTS: 1985-86 DROPOUT REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUTHOR: Perry Sailor

OTHER CONTACT PERSON: David Doss

The Office of Research and Evaluation annually summarizes AISD's dropout situation at the high school and junior high school levels. In addition to counts for the 1985-86 high school and junior high populations, the current status of the high school populations of 1983-84 and 1984-85 are also reported.

MAJOR FINDINGS:

- The annual high school dropout rate for 1985-86 is 10.7%. This is 0.3 percentage points lower than the annual rate for 1984-85.
- The reduction was mostly among minorities. The Black dropout rate was 9.8% (down from 10.6%), and the Hispanic rate was 15.3% (down from 16.0%). The Anglo/Other dropout rate was 9.0% (down from 9.1%).
- The annual dropout rate declined at 10th and 11th grades, but increased at 9th and 12th grades.
- We are continuing to monitor the dropout status of the students enrolled in high school in 1983-84 and 1984-85. The dropout rate for any group of students will tend to rise with each passing year. Of the 1983-84 ninth graders, 27.4% had dropped out of school by July, 1986.
- Although the 12th grade dropout rate is the lowest of any grade, the dropout rate among 12th graders who did not graduate in 1984-85 is 73.7%. Nearly half of the 1984-85 12th graders who dropped out did so during the summer after 12th grade. Corresponding rates among 1983-84 12th graders are very similar.
- The annual 1985-86 junior high school dropout rate is 5.1%, an increase of 1.3 percentage points from 1984-85.

85.70

FINAL REPORT

The Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE) has reported yearly high school dropout counts since 1983-84. In July, 1986, a longitudinal computerized data base (the Secondary Student Longitudinal File, or SSLF) was constructed that enables us to answer questions about the enrollment status of any group of high school students at any point in time, beginning with students enrolled during the 1983-84 school year. This report will present data from three cohorts of high school students--those enrolled in 1983-84, 1984-85, and 1985-86. (Of course these are not independent. Many students appear in two or more cohorts.)

Assigning Dropout Status Codes on the SSLF

Our method for assigning dropout status codes on the SSLF is as follows:

- Each year's cohort includes all students enrolled in an AISD high school at any time during the school year.

- Any student who withdraws from AISD is first considered a dropout.

- If the student's transcript is requested by a district, school, or other institution offering a high school diploma, the student is judged to be pursuing an education and his/her classification is changed from "dropout" to "transfer."

- In July following each school year, dropout status codes are assigned to each student in that year's population. Possible statuses are:

  --still enrolled
  --school-year dropout (withdrew, no transcript request)
  --school-year transfer (withdrew, transcript request)
  --graduate
  --died.

- The annual dropout rate is calculated by dividing the number of school-year dropouts by the total enrollment.

- Also in July, dropout codes assigned in years before the school year just completed are updated to reflect changes in status or information not available the previous July. Besides changes, two additional statuses became possible at this updating.

  --summer dropout (completed one school year, but did not show up the following school year, and no transcript request).
  --summer transfer (same as above but with transcript request).

- Longitudinal dropout rates are calculated from the updated numbers.

Comparisons of Annual Dropout Rates for the Last Three Years

Because of the nature of our monitoring and reporting system, which can be likened to taking "snapshots" of different cohorts at different lengths of time since their base years, the most meaningful comparisons are of each cohort's annual rate, each cohort's one-year longitudinal update, and so on. Figure 1 compares annual rates for the cohorts of 1983-84, 1984-85, and 1985-86; Figures 2-4 illustrate these graphically.

Besides the overall decrease in the dropout rate from 1984-85, note also that the decrease was greater among Blacks and Hispanics than among Anglo/Others, greater among males than females, and that the dropout rate increased slightly at grade 12 and substantially at grade 9, while decreasing at grades 10 and 11.

Group	Annual Rate, 1983-84		Annual Rate, 1984-85		Annual Rate, 1985-86	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Black	286	9.7	322	10.6	314	9.8
Hispanic	554	13.8	663	16.0	661	15.3
Anglo/Other	754	7.5	963	9.1	936	9.0
Female	701	8.5	880	10.1	883	10.0
Male	893	10.3	1,068	11.8	1,028	11.3
Grade 9	661	11.4	825	13.0	911	14.2
Grade 10	419	10.0	497	11.2	456	10.1
Grade 11	349	9.7	432	12.1	354	9.5
Grade 12	165	4.9	194	5.7	190	5.8
Total	1,594	9.4	1,948	11.0	1,911	10.7

Figure 1. ANNUAL 1983-84, 1984-85, AND 1985-86 HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES, BY ETHNICITY, SEX, AND GRADE.

Figure 2: ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE FOR 1983-84, 1984-85, AND 1985-86, BY SEX

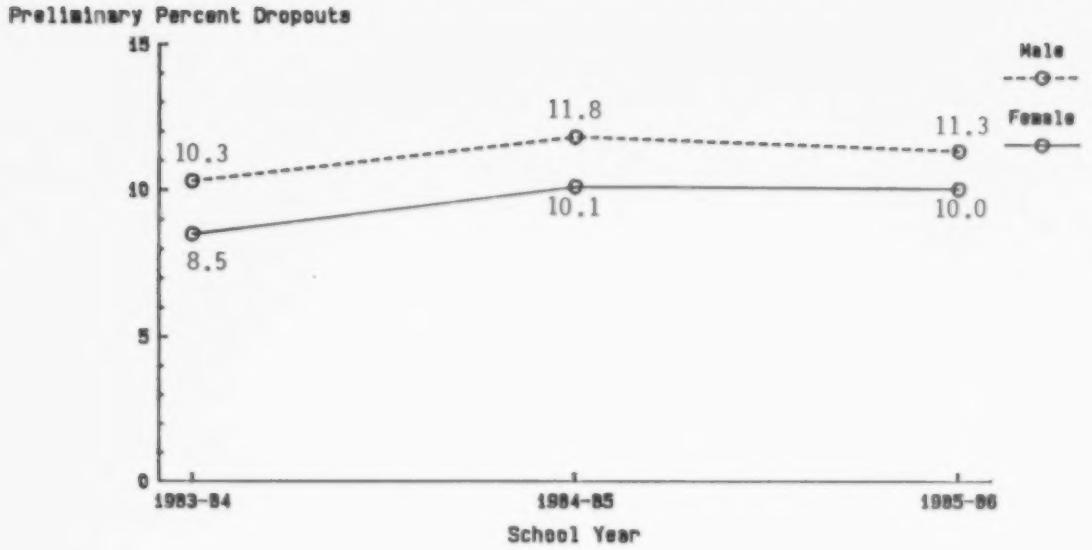


Figure 3: ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE FOR 1983-84, 1984-85, AND 1985-86, BY ETHNICITY

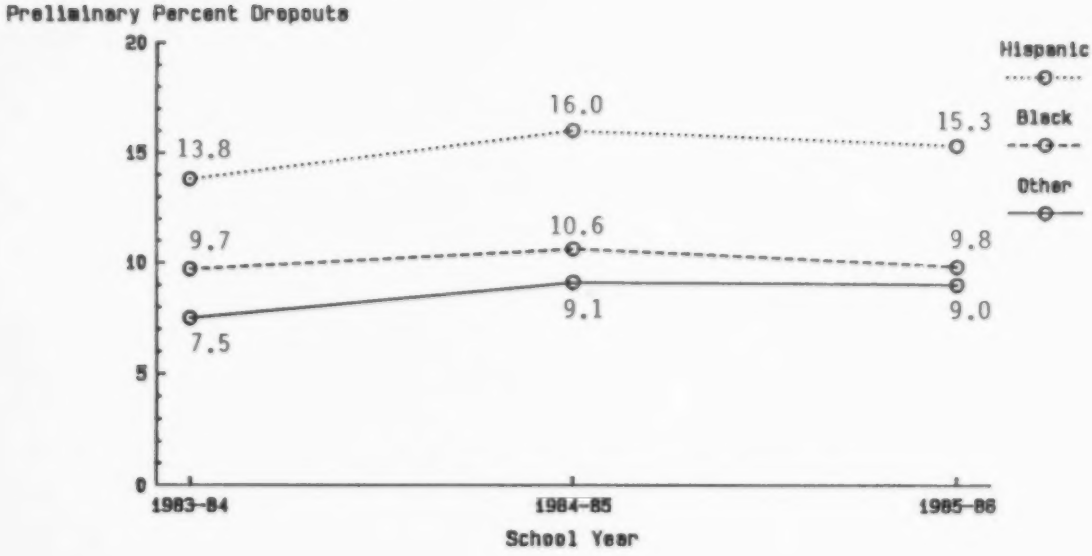
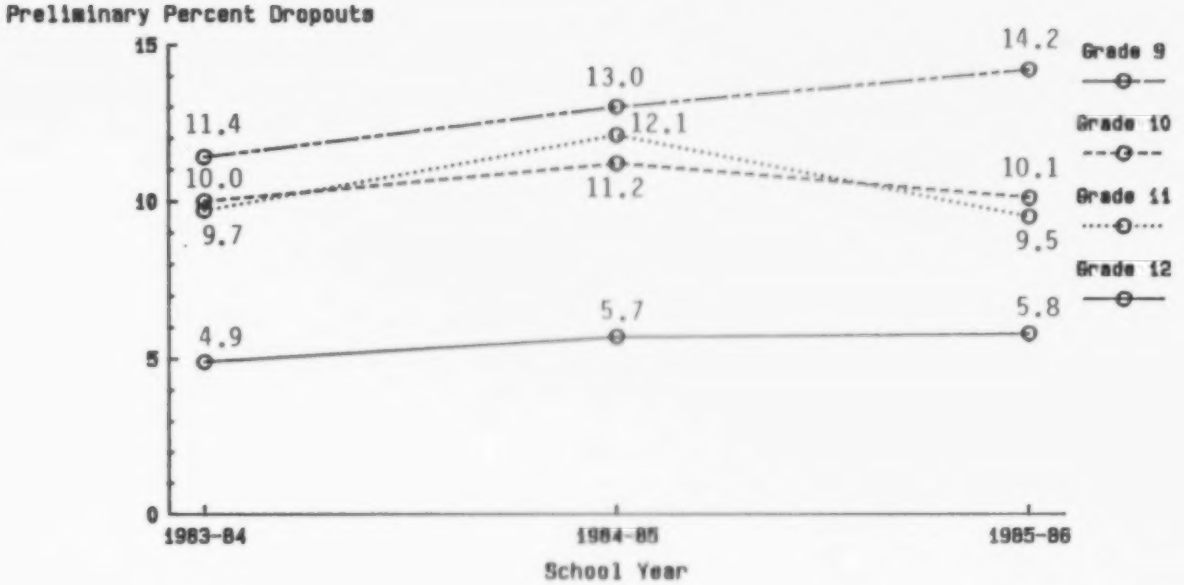


Figure 4: ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE FOR 1983-84, 1984-85, AND 1985-86, BY GRADE



Longitudinal Dropout Rates

The annual dropout rates reported in the preceding section are one-year rates. As students are followed for additional years, the dropout rate increases as more students leave school. Figure 5 presents the longitudinal rates as of July, 1986 for students in grades 9-12 in their respective base years. For example, the dropout rate for students who were ninth graders in 1983-84 has risen from 11.4% that year to 27.4% as of July, 1986. As students in a group reach maximum school age, an ultimate dropout rate will be reached. While it is conceivable that some of the 1983-84 ninth graders will return to school, it should be noted that after three years their dropout rate already exceeds the 24% rate reported in our longitudinal study of fourteen-year-olds followed over four-and-a-half years. Figure 6 provides the 1983-84 annual rate and the July, 1986 longitudinal rate for these students broken down by ethnicity and sex.

Cohort	Percentage of Students Who Have Dropped Out as of July 1.... 1984	1985	1986
1983-84			
Grade 9	11.4	20.2	27.4
Grade 10	10.0	18.4	24.1
Grade 11	9.7	15.8	19.5
Grade 12	4.9	9.0	9.0
1984-85			
Grade 9		13.0	21.8
Grade 10		11.2	18.3
Grade 11		12.1	18.9
Grade 12		5.7	10.0
1985-86			
Grade 9			14.2
Grade 10			10.1
Grade 11			9.5
Grade 12			5.8

Figure 5. LONGITUDINAL DROPOUT RATES AS OF JULY, 1986, BY COHORT AND GRADE.

Ethnicity	Annual Rate 1983-84	Longitudinal Rate July, 1986
Black	12.3%	28.2%
Hispanic	17.1%	40.3%
Anglo/Other	8.2%	20.6%
Male	12.5%	28.1%
Female	10.2%	26.5%
Total	11.4%	27.4%

Figure 6. ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE FOR 1983-84 AND JULY, 1986, LONGITUDINAL DROPOUT RATE FOR NINTH GRADERS IN 1983-84.

An Extremely High-Risk Group: Seniors Who Don't Graduate

In each of the cohorts, we looked at students who were in grade 12 during the base year but did not graduate that year (about 15% of 12 graders in each year). As Figure 7 shows, these students drop out in huge percentages, even though they lack only a few credits to graduate. The data also appear to indicate an increase in the dropout rate for these students.

		School Year Dropouts		Summer Dropouts		Total Dropouts	
Cohort	N	N	%	N	%	N	%
1983-84	434	163	37.6	142	32.7	305	70.3
1984-85	457	191	41.8	146	31.9	337	73.7
1985-86	425	190	44.7	-*	-*	190	44.7

* Not yet known.

Figure 7. DROPOUT RATES FOR NON-GRADUATING 12TH GRADERS, THREE COHORTS.

Junior High Dropout Rates

These should be interpreted very cautiously. It may be that our criterion (i.e., a transcript request) for classifying a withdrawn student as a transfer rather than a dropout is not as appropriate at junior high; school personnel have said that many junior highs do not request new students' transcripts. Because of our concern about the validity of the junior high rates, we plan to conduct an indepth examination of the dropout status of a sample of 1985-86 withdrawals.

Group	Annual, 1984-85		Annual, 1985-86	
	Number	%	Number	%
Black	48	2.5	50	2.6
Hispanic	162	5.8	199	7.2
Anglo/Other	177	3.3	232	5.0
Female	191	3.9	196	4.2
Male	196	3.9	285	6.1
Grade 7	189	3.8	224	4.8
Grade 8	198	3.9	257	5.5
Total	387	3.9	481	5.1

Figure 8. ANNUAL 1984-85 AND ANNUAL 1985-86 JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES, BY ETHNICITY, SEX, AND GRADE.

An oversight in data collection prevented us from figuring longitudinal rates for the 1984-85 cohort; this cohort is on the SSLF and the needed data will be collected in the fall of 1986.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1982-83

Doss, David A. DROPOUT INTERVIEWS: Summer, 1982, Final Technical Report. Austin, Texas: Office of Research and Evaluation (Publication Number 82.16), Austin Independent School District, 1982.

Doss, David A. Mother Got Tired of Taking Care of My Baby A Study of Dropouts From AISD. Austin, Texas: Office of Research and Evaluation (Publication Number 82.44), Austin Independent School District, 1982.

Doss, David A. Dropout Prediction. Austin, Texas: Office of Research and Evaluation (Publication Number 82.56), Austin Independent School District, 1982.

1983-84

Doss, David A. Desegregation and Dropping Out in One School District. Austin, Texas: Office of Research and Evaluation (Publication Number 83.49), Austin Independent School District, 1983.

1984-85

Doss, David A. 1984-85 Dropout Results, Appendix K. (From Systemwide Evaluation Final Technical Report). Austin, Texas: Office of Research and Evaluation (Publication Number 84.20), Austin Independent School District, 1984.

1985-86

Doss, David A. Ninth Grade Course Enrollment and Dropping Out. Austin, Texas: Office of Research and Evaluation (Publication Number 85.48), Austin Independent School District, 1985.

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Dr. Glynn Ligon, Director

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Dr. David A. Doss, Assistant Director

Perry Sailor, Evaluation Associate

Secretaries:

Ruth Fairchild

Leonila Gonzalez

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nan Clayton, President

Bernice Hart, Vice President

Lidia M. Perez, Secretary

John Lay *Ed Small*

Dr. Gary R. McKenzie *Abel R. Ruiz*

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. John Ellis

Publication Number 85.70

Cover Drawing by Emily Smith, Austin High
McCallum Vocational Commercial Art